

Genus *LOPHURA*.4. *LOPHURA MINIMA*, n. sp. (Plate XXII. fig. 2.)

Primaries above grey, apical area broadly purplish brown, crossed by a dark brown discal line, and bounded internally by a triangular subcostal blackish spot; base brownish; two black spots on inner margin; secondaries tawny, with broad ferruginous external border; head and thorax grey, abdomen rosy greyish, dorsal region dark; wings below dull tawny, powdered, especially towards the outer margins, with grey; secondaries with a black-edged white dot at end of cell; anal angle, and two parallel central transverse lines, ferruginous; body below rosy greyish, back of pectus whitish. Expanse of wings 1 inch 1 line.

Ayerpanas, Malacca (*Roberts*).

Subfamily SMERINTHINÆ.

Genus *MIMAS*.5. *MIMAS TERRANEA*, n. sp. (Plate XXII. fig. 3.)

Primaries greyish clay-brown, crossed by two central diffused reddish bands; a dull black dot at end of cell; several dark grey discal spots towards apex; secondaries dark brick-red; body greyish clay-brown; antennæ and lateral tufts on metathorax reddish; wings below rosy greyish; primaries with the discoidal cell and interno-median area ferruginous; a straight transverse discal brown line from costa to inner margin: secondaries with an elongated cuneiform ferruginous abdominal streak; two central parallel brown lines; fringe yellowish; body rosy greyish. Expanse of wings 3 inches 2 lines.

Ayerpanas, Malacca (*Roberts*).

A very well marked and distinct species.

2. Corrections of and Additions to "Raptorial Birds of North-western India."—Part II.* By ANDREW ANDERSON, F.Z.S. &c.

[Received February 22, 1876.]

(Plate XXIII.)

Another collecting-season enables me to add the following novelties and additional information on the subject of my last paper, thus bringing up the number of Raptorial Birds occurring in the plains of the North-western Provinces to no less than fifty-two species.

Additions to former lists are indicated by an asterisk.

2. *VULTUR CALVUS*, Scop.

In allusion to my having found *Gyps bengalensis* resting on palm-trees, I have now to mention that on the 28th January last I saw a pair of King Vultures building on a solitary tar-tree (*Borassus fla-*

* For Part I. see P. Z. S. 1875, page 16.



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M. J. G. Art. imp.

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belliformis). One bird invariably remained in the nest, sorting the materials as they were brought by its mate.

*12. *FALCO BABYLONICUS*, Gurney. (Plate XXIII.).

This was *the* prize of the season; and I believe the present example is the finest extant, both as regards maturity and beauty. I shot this specimen in the Etawah district, on the 27th November, while seated on the top of a low babool tree. It allowed me to ride sufficiently close up to it to enable me to distinguish its rufous head and the warm reddish hue of the underparts, which are *the* tests of the fully matured *Falco babylonicus*. At first it occurred to me that it was only a *Lithofalco chicquera*; but its superior size soon dispelled my doubts; and a minute later, as the lovely bird hung by its claws head downwards, bleeding profusely through the mouth, I saw that it was a fine example of the present species.

The specimen now before me (a male) appears to be in *full maturity* dress. Carefully measured in the flesh, the following are the results:—Length 14·7; wing 10·7; tail from vent 6·0; tarsus 1·6; bill straight (including cere) 1·0, along the curve (as above) 1·1, width at gape 1·1; greatest expanse of foot—length 4·0, breadth 3·6, centre toe and claw 2·5; weight 1 lb. 6 oz.; the wings fall short of the tail by 1·1.

The cere, gape, and orbital space were *bright* yellow; the bill was pale blue, darkening gradually towards the tip, which was blue-black; the irides were dark brown; and the claws were horny black.

The crop contained the remains of a Lark or Pipit. The Falcon was in full enjoyment of repose after having made a good meal, and was quite unconscious of any approaching danger: I have seldom had a better opportunity of examining a bird of the kind at such close quarters before.

The figure in 'The Ibis' for 1861, p. 217, does not represent a fully adult bird. It will be seen on comparing that figure with the plate now given that the following characters are the indications of *full maturity*:—first, the *pale* blue or grey mantle, every feather being broadly edged and tipped with rufous; second, the very rufous head, the moustachial stripe being also shaded off with the same colour; third, the warm reddish tint of the underparts, which, *from the throat to the vent are wholly devoid of any markings at all*, there being only a *few* light-blue or lavender dots on the *lower flanks and tibial plumes*.

I cannot understand Mr. Hume's 16-inch *mule*†; his measurements surely refer to a female; if he were correct, *Falco babylonicus* would be fully as large as *Falco peregrinus* (my males of the latter average under 16 inches!), whereas it is in reality a smaller species.

27 *bis*. *AQUILA BIFASCIATA*, Gray and Hardw.

That *Aquila orientalis*, Cab., has hitherto (erroneously though) been held to be distinct from *Aquila bifasciata*, Gray and Hardw., by continental naturalists admits no longer of any doubt. I have just

† Cf. 'Rough Notes' part i. p. 80.

received a typical "*bifasciata*" in evidently nestling or first plumage from Dr. Crowfoot, labelled "*orientalis*, juv., Sarepta, August," of which the following is a description:—General colour of upper parts a rich hair-brown; the lower surface is a little lighter in tone; some of the feathers of the nape of the neck (as in the nestling of *A. hastata*) are tipped with fulvous; *the lower row of median coverts, the greater wing-coverts, and ends of the secondaries and tertiaries are very broadly ended with salmon-colour or reddish buff, forming three distinct wing-bars when the wing is closed*; some of the median coverts nearest the tertiaries have the buff spot at the end of the feather of a long or isosceles-triangular shape, the point of the spot being of course towards the base of the feather; most of the lower-back feathers are broadly edged with buff, and the lowest ones adjoining the upper tail-coverts are longitudinally marked with duller buff; one or two of these feathers have this colour almost confined to one side of the feather, with a slight spot on the other web; others have a very large oval spot of dull buff on the apical half of the feather, with a brown stripe down the middle of the feather dividing the buff; the side feathers of the lower back are much paler brown, and the broad edges of the feathers are dull white instead of buff; all the upper tail-coverts are of a beautiful buff or salmon-colour, having their edges somewhat paler; the tibial plumes are tipped with dull whitish; the lower tail-coverts are first dull white streaked with brown, and those beyond them nearest the tail are dull unspotted buff; along the ridge of the wing towards bases of primaries there are some whitish spots, and the primary-coverts are broadly ended with salmon-colour, like the greater coverts; lining of wing brown near bend; lower down the feathers are tipped with white, and those nearest the primaries are largely patched with buff, the lowest feathers of all being white with some grey patches; axillary plumes brown, with white tips; primaries black; secondaries not so black; tertiaries a dark brown, save the light tips of the two latter; the inner primaries towards their bases are slightly mottled on their inner webs with grey, and the secondaries and tertiaries increasingly so, taking the form of distinct bars on the two latter; tail dark brown, barred with grey, all the feathers being broadly ended with reddish buff; the cere and feet appear to have been greenish yellow; the outer primaries are not fully grown; and as the specimen was procured in August, it is in all probability not more than three months old; length of wings 19·75, tail 10·25, tarsus 3·6, bill from gape 2·8; the nostrils are long ones, placed *obliquely, as is characteristic of A. bifasciata*.

This specimen, probably a female, is not full-grown, as the outermost primaries are only partially developed; and it is evidently in nestling plumage, as indicated by its uniform rich, soft, silky, dark brown plumage; the wing-bands as well as upper tail-coverts (these would have become gradually white from exposure to the influence of the sun) are of a *rich fulvous or salmon-colour*. *I have frequently killed this Eagle in a similar stage of plumage**; but the wing-bands

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1872, p. 621.

and upper tail-coverts of the vast majority of them by the time they arrive in this country *get bleached to a dirty white, leaving only traces of the salmon-colour above referred to.*

In the present example the underparts are of a *uniform* dark brown colour; *i. e.* there is no indication of the stone-coloured blotches I have before referred to†; but this, I think, is due to individual variation, and I attach no importance whatsoever to the absence of this peculiarity in a solitary specimen.

It will thus be seen that Dresser's larger figure ('Birds of Europe,' part xxxiii.) represents a bird in *nestling plumage, after the buff bands have faded considerably.* How long it remains in this *bifasciated* plumage can only be ascertained by keeping one in captivity; but it is as well to repeat‡ that the assumption of the fully adult dress is attained by the gradual disappearance of the wing-bands (these at first are buff or salmon-coloured, and then white) and the markings on the under surface (when present), after which it presents a *uniform brown throughout*, with the addition (in the course of time) of a fulvous nuchal patch, which is the sign of a fully matured bird. The growth, however, of this patch is far from regular, and few specimens are procured having it fully developed; at times it is confined to the top of the head, at others to the nape of the neck in a crescentic or half-moon shape.

27. AQUILA MOGILNIK, G. Gmel.

Having now seen the nestling of *A. bifasciata* and *A. hastata*, I feel confident, for analogous reasons, that the Aden-killed *A. mogilnik* in the lineated stage§ was also in nestling or first plumage. This specimen was of a much richer tone throughout than the birds usually procured in this country, the fact being that the sun had not as yet affected the original tint of its plumage.

*40. PANDION HALIAËTUS, Linn.

I lost a wounded Osprey on the 24th November last at a *jheel* in this district, which caused me not a little regret, the more so as I toiled after the bird up to my knees in water, first for some four hours in the morning, and again in the afternoon. It was very wild, keeping to the middle of a large open piece of water, and invariably settling on a decayed stump of a babool tree, where there was no approach of any sort. The place swarmed with larger Eagles, of sorts which never allowed the stranger to have a moment's rest, and were continually depriving it of its well-earned prey.

Mr. Cockburn, Curator of the Allahabad Museum, has lately given me a fine mature female which he shot in that district, where, he says, it is far from uncommon. In the well-watered parts of Northern Oudh and Eastern Bengal it is much more common; but the majority of the *jheels* in the Doab are too shallow as well as too weedy to attract this purely fish-eating Eagle.

† Cf. P. Z. S. 1875, p. 21.

‡ Cf. P. Z. S. 1872, p. 622.

§ Cf. P. Z. S. 1875, p. 21.

51. *CIRCUS SWAINSONII*, Smith.

A young male of this species which I shot on the 25th October last, close to Futtehgurh, is very interesting, as it illustrates the manner in which the light grey plumage of the adult male is gradually assumed. The rufous head and rust-coloured markings on the underparts of this specimen, which was sexed by myself, indicate that the juvenile dress of the young male resembles in some degree that of the female. I have recently had an opportunity of examining another young male, belonging to Mr. Brooks, which is in a still further advanced stage, having only the *forehead* rufous.

The irides of the Futtehgurh-killed bird were bright yellow, as in fully adult specimens; the legs and feet were light yellow; the bill and claws were black; and the cere was greenish yellow.

* 52. *CIRCUS CINERACEUS*, Montagu.

Jerdon's statement † "equally abundant with the last . . ." and, again, "I have found it in every part of India" requires modification as regards the deltaic portion of the North-western Provinces, an area comprising several thousand square miles. In this part of the country, although *C. swainsonii* is extremely common everywhere, *C. cineraceus* can only be considered in the light of an occasional straggler; and as the capture I am about to record throws some light on the geographical range, plumage, and food of this species, it is of interest in more ways than one.

Returning to my camp late in the evening of the 12th March, through an extensive tract of stiff dry grass from two to three feet high, I suddenly disturbed a large gathering of Harriers that had evidently settled on the reed beds for the night. There could not have been less than forty birds, inclusive of a few short-eared Owls that were *closely packed* in that one spot. As they circled overhead I recognized *Circus aeruginosus* in all shades and colours; there was also a fair sprinkling of *C. swainsonii*, male and female. Being at the time on the *qui vive* for strangely coloured Harriers, I singled out and brought down what appeared to me on the wing to be a bird that could hardly be referred to the latter species. It fell from a good height on to the edge of a dry pond, rupturing its crop, which was very much distended and literally crammed with the callow young and eggs of *Galerida cristata* and *Pyrrolauda grisea*, the majority of these dainty morsels having been swallowed entire.

The specimen underwent a critical examination by candlelight; and great was my delight when, instead of the common *C. swainsonii*, I found that my list could now boast of the addition of a fine adult male example of Montagu's Harrier. The plumage accords with Yarrell's description of the *adult male*—with this notable exception, however, that in my specimen the *whole of the underparts, from the chin to the under tail-coverts, are uniform with the mantle, viz. bluish grey*, dashed with longitudinal streaks of orange on the vent

† Cf. 'Birds of India,' vol. i. p. 98.

and thigh-coverts, whereas the author I have quoted (as in fact do Jerdon, Sharpe, and Hume†) gives the *breast only* as bluish grey, and the *rest of the underparts (of the adult male)* as white. Nowhere do I find the *whole of the underparts* described as *bluish grey the same as the back*; so that the present example would appear to be unique in this respect‡.

The following are its dimensions:—length 17·6, wing 14·5, tail from vent 9·4, tarsus 2·3. The irides were bright yellow; the legs and feet were dingy or pale yellow; the bill and claws were black; and the cere was greenish yellow.

But though this bird was doomed to succumb to the cause of science in a foreign country, the most melancholy event in its history is connected with its life in far more civilized climes than India; for its broken leg clearly testifies to the narrow escape it has had from falling a victim to the vengeance of some one's zealous game-preserved, most probably while acting as one of the "sanitary police of Nature." The left tarsus has the appearance of having been snapped in a trap, about the middle of the joint; the skin, which apparently had not been severed, has enabled the broken portion to reunite *sideways*; and though the fracture has healed in a most remarkable manner, the lower part of the leg hangs by the skin, which has assumed the form of a thick tegument; so that for all practical purposes, excepting perhaps for roosting, the injured leg could not have been of any use; the broken stump protrudes beyond the join by a quarter of an inch.

The range of Montagu's Harrier in Northern India is very puzzling. In the jungle tracts of Bundelkhand (south of the Jumna) it is far from uncommon, and in parts of Oudh and Rohilkhand (north of the Ganges) it is pretty generally distributed; so that its absence in the Duab, an enormous tract of country, large areas of which are in every way suited to its habits, is very singular indeed.

*53. CIRCUS MELANOLEUCUS, Gmel.

It is with much pleasure that I announce for the first time the advent of this unexpected addition (essentially an inhabitant of the humid country of Eastern Bengal and the Tarais generally) to the comparatively speaking arid plains of the North-western Provinces. The specimen in question fell to the shot of my friend Mr. Luard, on the 10th of February, when we were out shooting on the banks of the Ganges, near Futtehgurh. When shot it had just alighted on the ground, and was in the act of eating a large green grasshopper; its crop contained orthopterous insects of various kinds.

It is an exceedingly fine male in the pied livery of the adult bird; its large, lustrous, gold-coloured eyes contrast strangely with its black and white plumage, giving it in life a most beautiful appearance. Carefully measured in the flesh it gave the following results, which,

† Cf. 'Birds of India,' vol. i. p. 97; 'Catalogue of Accipitres,' vol. i. p. 66; 'Rough Notes,' p. 303.

‡ Since the above was written I have received two male specimens of *C. cinereus* from Europe; and in both examples the *breast only* is *bluish grey*.